

Response under 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Attorney Docket No. 981032B

Serial No. 10/786,091

REMARKS

Claims 9-17 are pending in this application. Claims 1-8 and 15 are canceled. Claims 9-14, 16 and 17 have been amended. The Abstract has been amended. Support for the amendments is as set forth below.

Applicants' Response to the Objections to the Specification

Presently the abstract stands objected to because it appears longer than 150 words and contains legal phraseology. In response thereto the applicants have amended the abstract as set forth herein. Applicants respectfully submit that the amended abstract is within 150 words and has removed all legal phraseology. Wherefore, applicants respectfully request that the objection be removed.

Applicants' Response to the Claim Objections

Claims 11-15 stand objected to under 37 CFR§1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form for failing to limit the subject matter of a previous claim, and claim 17 is objected to for minor informalities. Claim 15 has been cancelled and is now moot. In regard to claims 11 – 14 applicants have amended the claims to clarify the particular metal compound which each is drawn to. Claim 17 has been amended as the Examiner suggests. Wherefore, applicants respectfully request that the objection be removed.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 9-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, on the basis that the specification does not reasonably provide enablement for all metal fluorides, metal chlorides, metal iodides, and metal sulfides. Claim 15 has been cancelled and is now moot. The office action states that because the claims are not limited to catalytic metal compounds the invention

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encompasses non-enabled structures (i.e. non-catalytic metal compounds). In response thereto applicants have amended the claims to include the phrase “catalytic” to describe the metals.

Applicants' Response to the Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 9, 10, 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the IPDL JPO Machine Translation for *JP 08-315852 A.* (“Komori et al. JP ‘852”). In response thereto, applicants have amended claim 9 to incorporate the limitations of claim 15. Applicants respectfully submit that Komori et al. JP ‘852 does not include the limitations of amended claim 15. Komori et al. JP ‘852, claim 3, discloses K₂S, SnS, Na₂S, and Sb₂S₃ used as a metal sulfide. However, there is no description or teaching in the reference of cobalt sulfide and/or a nickel sulfide and/or a nickel sulfide used as the metal sulfide.

In the claimed invention the cobalt sulfide and/or nickel sulfide are the catalytic metal sulfides, and only with such sulfides is there emergence of the desired effects, which cannot be realized by a non-catalytic metal sulfide such as K₂S, SnS, Na₂S, and Sb₂S₃.

According, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 9 and 10 are novel and non-obvious over Komori et al. JP ‘852, and that the same applies to claims 11-14, 16 and 17, by nature of their dependency from claims 9 and 10. Wherefore, in light of the amendment and above remarks, favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

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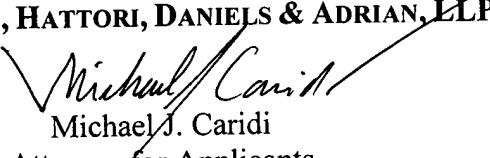
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If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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